

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An automated method for conducting a cattle auction, comprising:

5 providing a seller with guidelines for processing an animal prior to an auction, said seller processing said animal according to said guidelines, said guidelines including at least one required vaccination, at least one required medication, at least one required treatment, at least one required health record, and required electronic identification for the animal;

10 providing the seller with an electronic identification unit for said animal prior to the auction, said seller identifying said animal with the electronic identification unit, said electronic identification unit containing a unique animal code for the animal;

15 providing the seller with a visual identification tag for said animal prior to the auction, said seller identifying the animal with the visual identification tag, said visual identification tag containing a unique animal code for the animal;

20 providing the seller with a data card for said animal prior to the auction, said seller completing the data card for each animal, said data card including a unique animal code corresponding to the unique animal code contained in the electronic identification unit for the animal and further including fields for the seller to provide animal data including information on the animal's physical characteristics, administrative information on the animal, and information on medications, vaccinations and treatments given to the animal;

 providing the seller with a sales certification form prior to the auction, said seller completing the sales certification form for each animal, said sales certification form

having fields for the seller to provide background information, identifying information on the animal, information on vaccinations given to the animal, and seller's signature, said seller thereby certifying that the animal was processed according to vaccination processing guidelines;

5 obtaining completed data card from the seller;

recording animal data and corresponding unique animal code into first electronic database maintained on host computer for the auction barn facility, said host computer running a first software application;

obtaining completed sales certification form from the seller;

10 verifying that animal has electronic identification unit containing unique animal code;

receiving animal into auction barn facility;

providing seller with a receipt for said animal;

15 assigning unique group code to animal by sorting animal into group with other animals having at least one common characteristic, by means of a unique group code;

recording animal's unique animal code into second electronic database on host computer running a second software application;

recording animal's unique group code corresponding to the animal's unique animal code into second electronic database on host computer running a second software application;

20 weighing the animal;

recording said animal's weight corresponding the unique animal code into second electronic database on host computer running a second software application;

auctioning an animal or group of animals;
re-sorting the animals a second time to confirm that animals are in
appropriate grouping;
recording buyer data, including buyer name and information
5 sufficient to ascertain amount due from buyer, into second electronic
database on host computer for the auction barn facility, said host
computer running a second software application;
preparing a check for the seller by means of the second software application; and
preparing an invoice for the buyer by means of the second software application.

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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein recording the animal's unique animal code comprises
the steps of:

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reading the animal's unique animal code with a radio frequency identification reader
unit which queries a radio frequency identification transponder such that the
transponder provides a unique animal code;
uploading the unique animal code from the reader to the host computer by means of
wireless radio frequency connection;
wherein said electronic identification unit is a radio frequency identification
transponder.

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3. The method of Claim 2 wherein

the electronic identification unit is located on the animal's ear.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein recording the animal's unique group code comprises the

steps of:

reading the animal's unique group code with a radio frequency identification reader unit which queries a radio frequency identification transponder having a unique group code, such that the radio frequency identification transponder having the unique group code provides said unique group code when queried by the radio frequency identification reader unit;

5 uploading the unique group code from the reader to the host computer by means of a wireless radio frequency connection.

10 5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

exporting buyer data from the second electronic database maintained on the host computer using the second software application into an information file;

15 importing buyer data from the information file into the first electronic database maintained on the host computer using the first software application; and maintaining said first electronic database on at least one computer such that animal data can be accessed according to the animal's unique animal code.

6. The method of Claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

20 exporting buyer data from the second electronic database maintained on the host computer using the second software application into an information file;

importing buyer data from the information file into the first electronic database maintained on the host computer using the first software application;

25 maintaining at least one additional electronic database, on more than one computer running said first software application, such that animal data can be accessed

according to the animal's unique animal code, said additional database or databases containing animal data; and

communicating between the first electronic database and at least one additional electronic database on each computer such that animal data is shared between databases without the necessity of reentering data.

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7. The method of Claim 6 wherein

the guidelines include at least one requirement for an effective amount of a vaccine selected from the group consisting of a four-way virus vaccine for IBR, BVD, P13 and BRSV (MLV), a Pasteurella vaccine, and a combination of a clostridial seven-way vaccine and Hemophilus somnus vaccine;

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wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a four-way virus vaccine, then the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of the four-way virus vaccine are selected from the group consisting of BAYER BRSV VAC 4 vaccine, FORT DODGE PYRIMID 4 vaccine, and PFIZER BOVISHIELD 4 vaccine, and said four way virus vaccine is administered first at weaning and again fourteen to twenty-one days later;

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wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a Pasteurella vaccine, then said effective amount of a Pasteurella vaccine is first administered at weaning and then fourteen to twenty-one days after the first Pasteurella vaccination, and wherein the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of said Pasteurella vaccine is selected from the group consisting of BAYER ONCE PMH vaccine, FORT DODGE PRESONSE vaccine and PFIZER ONE-SHOT vaccine;

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wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a combination of a clostridial seven-

way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine, and if a blackleg is given at branding, then the clostridial seven way vaccination and hemophilus somnus vaccination is administered at weaning, and the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of the clostridial seven way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine is selected from the group consisting of BAYER VISION 7 SOMNUS vaccine and PFIZER FORTRESS 7 vaccine;

wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a combination of a clostridial seven-way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine, and no blackleg is given at branding, then the clostridial seven way vaccination and hemophilus somnus vaccination is first administered at weaning and then fourteen to twenty-one days after the first clostridial seven way vaccination and hemophilus somnus vaccination, and the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of the clostridial seven way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine are selected from the group consisting of BAYER VISION 7 SOMNUS vaccine and PFIZER FORTRESS 7 vaccine.

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8. The method of Claim 7 wherein

the guidelines include a required deworm medication once at weaning and the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of deworm medication are selected from the group consisting of MERIAL IVOMEC, PFIZER DECTOMAX, and FORT DODGE CYDECTIN.

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9. The method of Claim 8 wherein

the guidelines include a required weaning date for the animal and said required weaning date is at least forty five days prior to the auction.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein

the guidelines include at least one requirement for the location of administration of each vaccination, said requirement being selected from the group consisting of using the neck area for intramuscular injection, injecting subcutaneously if labeled on the product, and following label directions.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein

10 the guidelines include at least one recommendation for nutrition for an animal, said recommendation for nutrition being selected from the group consisting of:

high quality, high energy rations for the first three to five days subsequent to weaning;

hand-feeding the animal on grass, fields or improved pastures in sufficient quantities to maintain the health and growth of the animal;

15 giving an animal its free choice of salt and minerals at all times; and

giving an animal an adequate and clean water supply at all times.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the fields for the seller's background information,

20 identifying information on the animal, information on vaccinations given to the animal, and seller's signature, on the sales certification form include:

the seller's name;

the ranch name;

seller's address;

seller's phone number;

seller's facsimile number;

a contact person for the seller;

the sire breed for the animal;

5 the dam breed for the animal;

the animal's vaccination background including the name of each vaccination, the lot or serial number for each vaccination, the date of each vaccination, the location of administration of each vaccination;

seller's certification to accuracy of information contained on sales certification form;

10 seller's signature;

date of certification for said sales certification form; and

indication of whether purchase receipts are attached to said sales certification form.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein

15 said data card is completed using abbreviations contained on at least one code card;

and

wherein said data card has fields for animal data including information on the animal's physical characteristics, administrative information on the animal, and information on medications, vaccinations and treatments given to the animal,

20 including:

the date said data card is being completed;

the ranch on which the animal is located;

whether group information is being given on the animal;

the visual identification tag number for the animal;

the animal's sex as heifer, cow, steer or bull;

brand, method and dosage of medications and vaccinations for

Brucellosis,

Clostridial,

5 IBR,

PI-3,

BVD,

BRSV,

Haemophilus somnus bacterin,

10 Pasteurella,

Leptospirosis,

Deworm,

Grub/Lice, and

Other.

15 brand of any implant;

treatments whereby the animal was branded, castrated, dehorned, or weaned;

an animal's frame rated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7;

an animal's condition rated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9;

20 an animal's breed code as such code is defined by a code card;

an animal's sire code as such code is defined by a code card;

an animal's dam code as such code is defined by a code card;

an animal's location;

an animal's birth date;

an animal's color as black, red, white, brindle, grey, black with white

face or red with white face;

pregnancy at 1-2 months, 3-4 months, 4-5 months, 6-7 months, and 8-

9 months;

5 whether a broken needle is observed on the animal;

whether a broken needle has not been observed on the animal; and

any incident other than a broken needle.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein

10 a common characteristic of the group of animals to which said animal is assigned is selected from the group consisting of size, frame, and breed.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein

information sufficient to ascertain purchase price comprises price per pound for
15 animal or group of animals purchased and weight in pounds of animal or group of
animals purchased.

16. An automated system for conducting a cattle auction, comprising:

20 guidelines for processing an animal prior to an auction, said guidelines including at least one required vaccination, at least one required medication, at least one required treatment, at least one required health record, and required electronic identification for the animal;

sales certification form for certifying that the animal was processed according to vaccination processing guidelines prior to the auction, said sales certification form

having fields for the seller to provide background information, identifying information on the animal, information on vaccinations given to the animal, and seller's signature;

5 electronic identification unit for identifying the animal, said electronic identification unit containing a unique animal code for the animal;

visual identification tag for identifying the animal, said visual identification tag containing a unique animal code for the animal;

a data card for providing animal data prior to an auction, said data card including a unique animal code corresponding to the unique animal code contained in the

10 electronic identification unit for the animal and further including fields for the seller to provide animal data including information on the animal's physical characteristics, administrative information on the animal, and information on medications, vaccinations and treatments given to the animal;

auction barn facility for receiving and auctioning animal individually or as part of a group;

15 receipt for acknowledging that animal was received into auction barn facility; scale for weighing the animal;

unique group code for assigning animal to a group, the animals in said group having at least one common characteristic;

20 a first electronic database for storing animal data, including animal data from data card, said first electronic database maintained on a host computer for the auction barn facility, said host computer running a first software application;

a second electronic database for storing animal data including buyer data for purchaser of animal sold including buyer name and information sufficient to

ascertain purchase price for animal or group of animals;
wherein said second electronic database is maintained on a host computer for the
auction barn facility;
wherein said host computer runs a second software application;
5 wherein said second software application prepares a buyer invoice for billing the
buyer for animal or group of animals purchased; and
wherein said second software application further prepares a check for the seller in
payment for animal or group of animals sold to a buyer at auction.

10 17. The system of Claim 16 further comprising:

a radio frequency identification reader unit for reading the unique animal code and
unique group code;
a wireless radio frequency connection for uploading unique animal code and unique
group code from the reader to the host computer;
15 wherein the electronic identification unit is a radio frequency identification
transponder; and
wherein the unique group code is contained in a radio frequency identification
transponder.

20 18. The system of Claim 17 further comprising:

information file for receiving buyer data from the second electronic database
maintained on the host computer using the second software application and sending
buyer to first electronic database maintained on the host computer using the first
software application; and

at least one computer in addition to the host computer for maintaining said first electronic database such that animal data can be accessed according to the animal's unique animal code.

5 19. The system of Claim 17 further comprising:

information file for receiving buyer data from the second electronic database maintained on the host computer using the second software application and sending buyer to first electronic database maintained on the host computer using the first software application; and

10 at least one additional electronic database, said additional electronic database or databases being maintained on more than one computer running said first software application, such that animal data can be accessed according to the animal's unique animal code, said additional database or databases containing animal data; and communication means for communicating between the first electronic database and the additional electronic database or databases on each computer such that animal data is shared between databases without the necessity of reentering data.

15 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein

the guidelines include at least one requirement for an effective amount of a vaccine selected from the group consisting of a four-way virus vaccine for IBR, BVD, P13 and BRSV (MLV), a Pasteurella vaccine, and a combination of a clostridial seven-way vaccine and *Hemophilus somnus* vaccine; wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a four-way virus vaccine, then the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of the four-way virus vaccine are

selected from the group consisting of BAYER BRSV VAC 4 vaccine, FORT DODGE PYRIMID 4 vaccine, and PFIZER BOVISHIELD 4 vaccine, and said four way virus vaccine is administered first at weaning and again fourteen to twenty-one days later;

5 wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a Pasteurella vaccine, then said effective amount of a Pasteurella vaccine is first administered at weaning and then fourteen to twenty-one days after the first Pasteurella vaccination, and wherein the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of said Pasteurella vaccine is selected from the group consisting of BAYER ONCE PMH vaccine, FORT DODGE

10 PRESONSE vaccine and PFIZER ONE-SHOT vaccine;

wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a combination of a clostridial seven-way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine, and if a blackleg is given at branding, then the clostridial seven way vaccination and hemophilus somnus vaccination is administered at weaning, and the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of the clostridial seven way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine is selected from the group consisting of BAYER VISION 7 SOMNUS vaccine and PFIZER FORTRESS 15 7 vaccine;

wherein if said effective amount of a vaccine is a combination of a clostridial seven-way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine, and no blackleg is given at branding, then the clostridial seven way vaccination and hemophilus somnus vaccination is first administered at weaning and then fourteen to twenty-one days after the first clostridial seven way vaccination and hemophilus somnus vaccination, and the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of the clostridial seven way vaccine and hemophilus somnus vaccine are selected from the group consisting of BAYER 20

VISION 7 SOMNUS vaccine and PFIZER FORTRESS 7 vaccine.

21. The system of Claim 20 wherein

the guidelines include a required weaning date for the animal and said required weaning date is at least forty five days prior to the auction.

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22. The method of Claim 21 wherein

the guidelines include a required deworm medication once at weaning and the manufacturer and corresponding trade name of deworm medication are selected from the group consisting of MERIAL IVOMEC, PFIZER DECTOMAX, and FORT DODGE CYDECTIN.

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23. The method of Claim 22 wherein

the guidelines include at least one requirement for the location of administration of each vaccination, said requirement being selected from the group consisting of using the neck area for intramuscular injection, injecting subcutaneously if labeled on the product, and following label directions.

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24. The method of Claim 23 wherein

the guidelines include at least one recommendation for nutrition for an animal, said recommendation for nutrition being selected from the group consisting of: high quality, high energy rations for the first three to five days subsequent to weaning;

hand-feeding the animal on grass, fields or improved pastures in sufficient

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quantities to maintain the health and growth of the animal;
giving an animal its free choice of salt and minerals at all times; and
giving an animal an adequate and clean water supply at all times.

5 25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the fields for the seller's background information, identifying information on the animal, information on vaccinations given to the animal, and seller's signature, on the sales certification form include:

the seller's name;

the ranch name;

10 seller's address;

seller's phone number;

seller's facsimile number;

a contact person for the seller;

the sire breed for the animal;

15 the dam breed for the animal;

the animal's vaccination background including the name of each vaccination, the lot or serial number for each vaccination, the date of each vaccination, the location of administration of each vaccination;

seller's certification to accuracy of information contained on sales certification form;

20 seller's signature;

date of certification for said sales certification form;

indication of whether purchase receipts are attached to said sales certification form.

26. The method of Claim 25 wherein

5 said data card is completed using abbreviated codes contained on at least one code card; and

wherein said data card has fields for animal data including information on the animal's physical characteristics, administrative information on the animal, and information on medications, vaccinations and treatments given to the animal, including:

the date said data card is being completed;

10 the ranch on which the animal is located;

whether group information is being given on the animal;

the visual identification tag number for the animal;

the animal's sex as heifer, cow, steer or bull;

brand, method and dosage of medications and vaccinations for

15 Brucellosis,

Clostroidal,

IBR,

PI-3,

BVD,

20 BRSV,

Haemophilus somnus bacterin,

Pasteurella,

Leptospirosis,

Deworm,

Grub/Lice, and

Other.

brand of any implant;

treatments whereby the animal was branded, castrated, dehorned, or

5 weaned;

an animal's frame rated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7;

an animal's condition rated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9;

an animal's breed code as such code is defined by a code card;

an animal's sire code as such code is defined by a code card;

an animal's dam code as such code is defined by a code card;

an animal's location;

an animal's birth date;

an animal's color as black, red, white, brindle, grey, black with white

face or red with white face;

10 pregnancy at 1-2 months, 3-4 months, 4-5 months, 6-7 months, and 8-

9 months;

whether a broken needle is observed on the animal;

whether a broken needle has not been observed on the animal; and

any incident other than a broken needle.

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20 27. The method of Claim 26 wherein

a common characteristic of the group of animals to which said animal is assigned is selected from the group consisting of size, frame and breed.

28. The method of Claim 27 wherein

information sufficient to ascertain purchase price comprises price per pound for
animal or group of animals purchased and weight in pounds of animal or group of
5 animals purchased.